Federal and State Partnerships Associated with the Efficacy Testing of Antimicrobial Products

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has responsibility under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) for regulating antimicrobial products to control pathogenic bacteria (including spores), viruses, and other microorganisms on porous and nonporous surfaces. As part of its mission to protect the public health community, the Agency verifies efficacy claims for hospital disinfectants and tuberculocides thru a post-registration testing program. The basis of the program is to test products at selected federal and state laboratories to ensure that the products are efficacious against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG and to verify that the chemistry formulation is within the certified limits. The program requires input by several U.S. EPA headquarters offices (OPP, Office of General Counsel, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance), all regional U.S. EPA offices, state and federal inspectors, and four federal and state laboratories. The complexity of the program requires the identification of products to be evaluated, collection of the products at the manufacturing site, shipping products to the laboratories, conducting the laboratory analysis, evaluating the data, and communicating the results to the regulated community. In addition, the four federal and state laboratories collaborate on scientific issues associated with the testing of this class of chemicals.